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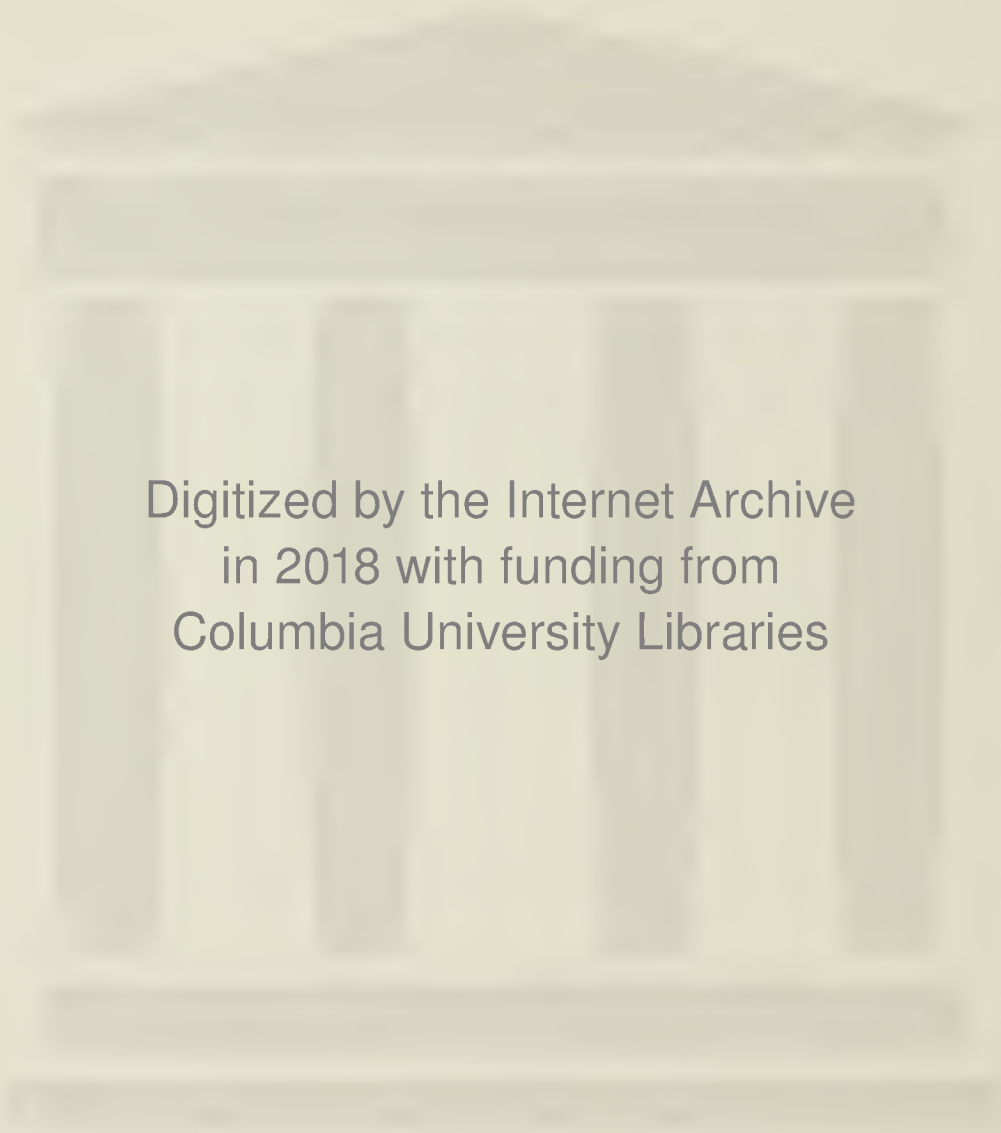
THE FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE

OF SYNODS AND PRESBYTERIES

A MANUAL

"And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."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A MANUAL FOR THE FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE OF SYNODS AND PRESBYTERIES

— 1939 —

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue New York City

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Chapter I

THE RELATION OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE TO THE WORLD MISSION OF THE CHURCH

There is always danger that the World Mission of the entire Church may come to be considered the function of one agency — The Board of Foreign Missions, whereas the only reason for such a Board is that the Church considers this the work of all its members. The Board did not organize itself, no one part of the Church organized it. The Board is an expression of the whole Church acting in the only way in which the Church can act. The Board has been established by the General Assembly to co-operate with the churches in their foreign missions work primarily through the Foreign Missions Committee and in conducting the combined overseas enterprise of our entire communion. The General Assembly is in session for only a few days each year and can but briefly consider the total work of the Church; whereas the synods and presbyteries maintain the year around Committees which can keep a most effective hand on the enterprises of the whole Church.

The maintenance and progress of our world wide undertaking depends upon the active co-operation of the Foreign Missions Committees of 41 synods and 270 presbyteries.

The Relation to the World Mission

Foreign Missions is apt to be thought of as a work in which the local church is asked to help the Board. But is not the opposite the actual fact? The Board is the helper of the local church. The church is under obligation to carry on world missions, but it is almost helpless unless in the task it has some agency through which it can work. The Board is the agent and helper. The synods and presbyteries do not aid the Board; the Board aids them in doing what is their bounden duty to do. No one must think that somewhere, in New York, Chicago, or San Francisco is a body doing foreign missionary work independently which each synod and presbytery and church may only encourage and aid by gifts and devotion. The General Assembly has rightly stated that this world obligation belongs to every member of the Church and that the only way to meet the obligation is through concerted effort. This Manual is prepared to offer suggestions as to how the Board can better serve the Church in its World Mission through the co-operation of the Foreign Missions Committee of synods and presbyteries.

Chapter II

THE ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Foreign Missions Committee will be effective in the life and work of the synod or presbytery only as its members keep aware of the fundamental aim, the enlarging scope, and the critical need of the Cause the Committee represents.

This is the aim of the World Mission of the Presbyterian Church as expressed in the *Manual* of The Board of Foreign Missions:

> "The supreme and controlling aim of foreign missions is to make the Lord Jesus Christ known to all men as their Divine Saviour and to persuade them to become His disciples; to gather these disciples into Christian churches which shall be self-propagating, self-supporting and self-governing; to co-operate, so long as necessary, with these churches in the evangelizing of their countrymen, and in bringing to bear on all human life the spirit and principles of Christ."

The Foreign Missions Committee in its planning and activities will find continual inspiration in remembering that it speaks in behalf of approximately 1300 Presbyterian missionaries and their thousands of fellow Christian national workers in 16 countries; namely, China, Japan, Chosen, Philippines, Siam, India, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Africa, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Mexico.

In our present day world the need for Jesus Christ is the most apparent fact in life. Foreign Missions Committees will deepen their devotion and increase their labors as they ponder over these words taken from the findings of the 1938 World Meeting of the International Misssionary Council at Madras, India, in which the Presbyterian Church was well represented:

> "The Christian Church to-day is called to live, and to give life, in a world shaken to its foundations . . . It is in and to this world that the Church must conduct its mission, seeking to repossess and proclaim its God-given message in all its truth and power . . . To all who care for the peace and health of mankind we issue a call to lend their aid to the Church which stands undaunted amidst the shattered fragments of humanity and works tirelessly for the healing of the nations. And those who already share in its life, and especially its leaders, we summon to redouble their exertions in its great tasks, to press forward the evangel among all peoples, to strengthen the younger Churches, to speed practical co-operation and unity, to bear in concrete ways the burdens of fellow-Christians who suffer, and above all to take firm hold again of the faith which gives victory over sin, discouragement and death. Look to Christ, to His Cross, to His triumphant work among men, and take heart. Christ, lifted up, draws all men unto Him . . .This day calls to no easy optimism, but to penitence, to unwavering confidence in the wisdom, love and power of God, to patient and unwearied service in the name, the spirit, and the power of the Risen Redeemer."

Chapter III

SUGGESTED METHODS FOR PRESBYTERY'S FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE

In the following effort to give a broad statement of possible methods of work it may seem that the wide differences among presbyteries have been overlooked. On the other hand, it is appreciated that no presbytery could use all the methods suggested. Moreover, there are presbyteries whose committees are doing unique things not suggested here at all. The majority of the methods, herewith, are surely practicable for all, others are sometimes so, and some method is always possible for resourceful committees.

1. A Careful Study of the Whole Situation in the Presbytery.

What are the churches actually doing for world missions? What have they been doing over a period of five years—which way is the curve running? What is the present giving of the churches, church by church? Where does world missions stand in the thought of the sessions and the people of the churches? Where can encouragement be given helpfully and in what form? There ought to be no omissions in this study. The smallest churches are sometimes simply counted out but they certainly should be brought in. There is no pastor? No, but there are people with whom the command of Christ still deals. There is a session of at least two ruling elders and if not there must be

members. The survey ought to be made by the Committee and not by the chairman alone.

The study will cover the accepted obligations of the churches. How many support individual missionaries? How many have some other "specific objects"? How many have some part in the support of a station in the foreign field? Have any of the churches sent members to the field? Moreover, an efficient Committee would keep a record of what each church is doing in missionary education, and in special projects of missionary promotion. Such facts can be learned from the nearest Foreign Board office if it is not feasible to make direct inquiry of each church. The Committee should learn all the salient facts about the missionary life, work and possibilities of the churches of the presbytery.

2. Distribution of the Work Among the Members of the Committee.

The chairman should not be the Committee, even though there is frequently a willingness that he shall be. The churches may be divided among the Committee members. Different functions of the Committee may be allocated to various persons on the Committee as their major responsibility. The ruling elders on the Committee might take care of the smaller or vacant churches because they can often command Sunday time more readily than pastors. It will be most helpful for a ruling elder to display an interest in world missions, especially in a church without pastoral leadership.

3. The Report to Presbytery.

Sufficient time should be secured on the docket of Presbytery and then it ought to be wisely used. It is not fair to the presbyters to waste time even on a great subject.

(a) Long, tepid reports ought to be avoided. Trite advice to intelligent ministers is also of little value. What is said ought to be vital and not too familiar already to the members

of presbytery. Recommendations ought to be reasonable and practicable and the Committee should not present them unless it means to follow them up if they require the personal action of ministers and sessions.

(b) Material for the report to Presbytery can always be secured from the nearest office of the Foreign Board, with word about any members of presbytery who are in missionary service or missionaries supported by any church or society in the presbytery. The report ought to lead to a definite prayer for any such particular worker. The *Year Book of Prayer for Missions* for the day can always be used to good advantage.

(c) Missionary speakers will always be welcomed if they are available. Pastors, ruling elders, women leaders, young people can be used to enforce points in the report or to introduce their own ideas. Occasionally the whole Committee ought to take part in the report.

(d) There might be an "interlocutory meeting" in the program at presbytery when the roll of the churches is called and each pastor or elder tells of the condition of his church in its relation to foreign missions and there is an exchange of opinion. This has been done by presbytery Committees to good advantage, resulting in a profitable discussion hour in which difficulties and encouragements emerge.

4. Securing the Leadership of Pastors.

The number and frequency of communications and approaches to pastors must be determined by the good sense of the Committee and the needs of the case. Their purpose must be determined by the time of year and the goal under consideration. Since there is plainly need in most places for more pulpit treatment of world missions, the Committee from time to time should urge in its various contacts with pastors the inclusion of foreign missions in preaching, according to methods suitable to the plans of each pastor. The Board has published a small

pamphlet, *The Major Christian Enterprise,* which suggests about 60 sermon approaches to the theme of missions. This is available for pastors and Committees.

Sometimes it would be wise to request presbytery to set a particular date on which each pastor will preach a missionary sermon. It may well be some special historical date in missionary history. An interchange of pulpits throughout the presbytery on an agreed date is advisable when foreign missions will be the theme of each minister.

Of course in addition to preaching on missions the pastor must be the leader of the missionary program in his church. The most important element in building a world minded church is having a world minded pastor who will make his missionary program the business of the whole church and not simply one group within the church.

5. Conferences on Foreign Missions.

A conference can sometimes be arranged in connection with the meeting of presbytery and this will reach the pastor and one ruling elder. Smaller conferences, covering a limited number of churches in an area, can include the women workers, the entire session, other laymen, the young people, and can permit more intimate discussion of the issues than is possible in presbytery meetings. One Committee laid out a series of conferences in individual churches, one member visiting each church and meeting with the officers and members regarding their missionary program. This requires work and is possible only when a Committee will give time and thought to it.

A Foreign Missions Conference program might have the following agenda:

> A brief devotional service in which the great missionary prayers, scripture passages and hymns are magnified;

A survey of the actual financial connections of the church or churches in the group with world work;

A survey of the programs of the church or churches for developing missionary intelligence in their membership;

Discussion of the best methods of mission study, schools of missions, midweek mission prayer meetings, "Presbyterian Foreign Affairs Forums", etc.;

A discussion regarding difficulties actually met in maintaining missionary interest and active participation;

A discussion on the best reasons for missionary work;

The use of missionary literature and visualization aids;

A closing inspirational statement of some phase of actual work on the field or a survey of the whole field, to send everyone away challenged and strengthened.

6. Itinerating Missionary Speakers.

Furloughed periods are given to missionaries in order that they might have needed rest, opportunity for study and assist in home base promotion. The nearest Board office can almost always arrange for the visit of a missionary, either man or woman, to a presbytery. The itinerating of a missionary is a much larger task than some Committees realize, but it is also a more helpful service than many know. Possibilities differ widely in various presbyteries. When a speaker is available, the Committee ought to survey the field with care and route the speaker to the best advantage in time, money and wear-and-tear. Few missionaries know how to spare themselves and if an im-

possible schedule is laid out for them they will try to fill it. On the other hand if the schedule is too light, the missionary is almost helpless; he can plan very few additions on his own initiative. He cannot very well go to a church which has not expected him nor suggest personal service which has not been planned. Moreover, after he is on the ground and is making the tour as arranged the Committee has to be constantly watchful, ready to meet unexpected emergencies and to arrange something else. Wherever possible a typed copy of the detailed itinerary, including the times of arrival and departure by bus or train should be sent to the missionary in advance of his visit. On a long itinerary, an occasional free day for rest and correspondence should be planned.

(a) The coming of a missionary ought to be greatly magnified in most communities as an event. Here is a person who knows some part of the world more intimately than probably anyone else in the community. Here is one who speaks with authority concerning the Christian world mission. If he can stay two or three days have him entertained for meals in separate homes so that several families may have the privilege of contact with him. The local newspaper and radio officials ought to be given a chance to interview the missionary on the subject he knows best. He may not talk in the interview about missionary work, but he can use the occasion to cultivate an interest in his missionary message. Accounts of the meetings and of his work should be given to the press before and while he is there.

(b) Educational institutions—colleges, high schools, private schools—ought to hear the visiting missionary. The service clubs and lodges have a chance when he is there that comes to them very seldom. Find out if he belongs to any one of them and then take advantage of this relationship.

(c) At least one social event ought to be planned—a supper, a luncheon or a tea to which all types of people can be invited, especially those who know nothing about missions.

(d) The usual church opportunities ought to be taken for granted—Sunday services, church school, young people's meetings, women's organizations in their regular meetings or in one planned especially to meet the missionary, the midweek meeting, a special meeting of the men's club, business women's club, or Boy and Girl Scouts, or a congregational occasion definitely planned to hear the missionary.

(e) If thorough planning is done there are certain men and women in the church to be visited for personal cultivation in behalf of the missionary cause.

(f) It is much better if the itinerary can be long enough and deliberate enough so that a week can be spent in a given area, including one Sunday. A shorter visit is worthwhile, however, if enough resourcefulness and energy are employed. The Committee should secure from the Board the leaflet "The Foreign Missionary's Visit" and see that a copy of it is in the hands of every pastor whose church is to be visited.

(g) It should be remembered that all missionaries are not "pulpit orators." They were not chosen by the Board for foreign service on this basis nor do they accomplish missionary results on the field most effectively in this manner. However, every missionary has a thrilling story to tell in his own way. The emphases and aptitude of a missionary should be determined through correspondence with the Board office so that the missionary's contribution to the church may be arranged to fit his best method of presentation — i.e. from the pulpit, before informal discussion groups, at the young people's fellowship, men's club, women's missionary society, etc.

(h) Regarding expenses—during the zoning promotional period, the Board will care for the expenses of a missionary to and from the bounds of a presbytery in the hope that the presbytery can entertain the missionary and arrange for his travels from place to place while he is there. During non-zoning months,

when the Board is not routing missionaries through a presbytery, it is hoped that churches will care for the travel of a missionary speaker. Missionaries are on small home allowance and the Board will greatly appreciate the individual church's caring for this item. If a church takes an offering for the Board during the zoning period for which credit is desired, the missionary will turn that money over to the Board and the church will receive credit if it is so specified. Otherwise, the missionary considers it an honorarium.

7. Mission Study.

Suggestions for Schools of Missions or Mission Institutes can be secured from the nearest office of the Foreign Board. They are best planned according to the locality—Wednesday evenings, Sunday evenings, with or without a supper, four or six weeks long, in mass gathering or broken into classes by ages or other division, using one book or more, including in many cases the *Annual Report* of the Board which is always available. "Book Clubs for Men" have been exceedingly successful in certain areas in influencing men to participate in mission study—see the Board's leaflet "Will Men Read Missionary Books?"

8. Presbyterian Foreign Affairs Forum.

This plan has proved to be an effective means of interpreting and promoting foreign missions. A booklet entitled *Presbyterian Foreign Affairs Forum,* describing this procedure and its possibilities in the local church or community and including suggested Forum questions and answers, may be secured at the Board offices.

9. Missionary Education.

The program of Christian Education for children, young people and adults in every local church includes a strong emphasis on the world mission of the church. Every encouragement should be given to a program of missionary education.

It goes to the roots of the matter. There should be the closest co-operation between the Director of Missionary Education in the presbytery, the Secretary for Missionary Education of the presbyterial society and the Chairman of the Foreign Missions Committee.

10. Special Days Set Apart by General Assembly Action for Foreign Missions.

On Easter and Christmas the church schools are asked for direct offerings for a list of objects which are clearly stated and described in communications from the Board prior to each special day. Wherever someone is concerned about this, the results are good; it may be completely neglected if no one gives it attention. It may be wise to make the approach through the church school officers or it may be better to work through the pastor, of course always with his full knowledge. Mention of the day in the report to Presbytery is not nearly enough. As the time approaches some member of the Committee should communicate with each church to learn if the free supplies offered by the Foreign Board have been ordered, whether the mind of the church school is prepared for the gift and prayer called for on the special day.

11. Missionary Literature.

It can be displayed at meetings of Presbytery, at conferences arranged by the Committee, and some of it should be always on hand for use in letters by all members of the Committee. The Secretary for Literature of the presbyterial society should be invited to attend committee meetings occasionally. Anything that can be done to advance the use of the missionary magazines, such as *Women and Missions, Five Continents, Missionary Mail, International Review of Missons, Missionary Review of the World, Christian World Facts,* all published in different offices at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City, will be of real service to the pastors and the churches. A *Foreign Affairs Bulletin* is issued monthly by the Board, giving pertinent and timely

facts concerning world missions. The Library of the Foreign Board located at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City, is ready to serve anyone who desires books and periodicals on missionary life and work. Any Committee might well set out on a campaign to promote the reading of missionary literature as part of a year's work. The Church needs increased intelligence about the work abroad.

12. Visualization Aids.

Motion pictures and slides are available at the nearest office of the Board for rental or free-will offering. During the zoning period the Board will gladly make available to Foreign Missions Committees a projector and films for an itineration through a presbytery for a period of from two to three weeks on a free-will offering basis.

13. Information Regarding Possible Individual Donors.

In many churches there are persons who might support special phases of the work or an individual missionary. Tell the Board promptly about such persons. Of course the offices of the Board will follow up any suggestion of this sort, especially when it comes with the knowledge of the pastor of the church. The support of the work by individuals must be sought. Not only wealthy men and women should be approached. A modest gift from the person of moderate means is of great value not only in itself but also it establishes a basis for a continuing relationship.

14. Encouraging "Specific Work".

The Foreign Mission Committee should keep informed as to how many churches designate their foreign missions funds for a specific project on the field. When the Committee conducts foreign missions visitations or conferences among the churches this "specific work" plan should be encouraged because such personal relationship means increasing interest and support.

Partial support is possible as well as the full salary of a missionary. Projects these days are varied enough to meet any special interest — rural, medical, industrial, educational and personal evangelism. Where individual churches are not strong enough to undertake a "specific work" relationship alone, groups of neighboring churches may combine in this plan of support. In smaller presbyteries where there is no strong church, all the churches of presbytery might be joined together, in the support of one missionary.

15. Promoting the Annuity Plan.

Most people are familiar with the annuity idea but do not realize that contributions to The Board of Foreign Missions can be made on this basis. Since 1875 the Board has been receiving gifts on the annuity plan and has never failed to make annuity payments when due. The Foreign Missions Committee will want to be informed as to the following facts which will help a pastor present the annuity plan to individuals in his church. The donor receives an income during his lifetime, and at his death the residuum is released for the carrying on of the Board's work. The rate of income is based on the age of the annuitant when the gift is made. For example, at age 55 the rate is 5%. If two lives are included in the joint and survivor plan, the rate is naturally lower. Annuity gifts have ranged from $100 to $230,000. The average gift has been $1,000. Gifts as low as $100 are the exception and are not encouraged because of the small return to the donor and the amount of detail involved in the handling of the agreement. For further information there may be secured from the Board the leaflet "What the Annuity Plan Is". From time to time in presbytery meetings and conferences a discussion of the annuity plan will further this helpful means of missionary support which has been tried and tested and found most worthy by so many.

16. Cultivating Every Member Giving.

At regular intervals throughout the year the Committee should make every effort to educate the churches to the necessity of every member of the church and church school (even the youngest child) doing his share in supporting foreign missions. This should be done with special emphasis just prior to the Every Member Canvass. Close co-operation with presbytery's program of stewardship and in presbytery's preparation for the Every Member Canvass is most necessary.

17. Status of the Youth Budget Plan.

Could more effective use be made of the plan? Is it working well or does it need correction at any point? Every member of the Committee should have copies of the literature about the Youth Budget. Secure it from the General Council. The Committee should have as one of its co-opted members the Youth Budget Chairman of presbytery or a suitable young man or woman for the promotion of the Youth Budget Plan. It should be kept constantly in mind that the co-operative creation of a budget for current expense and benevolence by the use of the church and their leaders, and the setting up of a pledge system is only half of the Youth Budget Plan. To be effective this must be paralleled by an educational program built around the specific projects to which benevolence money is pledged. The Foreign Missions Committee should be familiar enough with the Friendship Frontiers materials, prepared by the Young People's Division of The Board of Foreign Missions, to support youth benevolence projects so that they can intelligently recommend them to the churches of presbytery, particularly to those using the Youth Budget Plan.

18. Recruiting.

An active Foreign Missions Committee will be constantly on the look-out for young people in the churches of presbytery who are possibilities for foreign missionary service. Pastors

should be asked to send such names to the Committee as well as to the Department of Missionary Personnel of the Board so that the Committee may encourage and advise these young people personally and at occasional informal meetings. When a new missionary connected with a church in the presbytery is to sail the date should be sent to all the churches with request for public reference to it in sermon or prayer so that all the people may be included in so great an event.

19. The Use of the *Year Book of Prayer for Missions.*

This should be encouraged in all of the churches and their organizations and in every home. In addition to the power in the fellowship of prayer, by this means the congregation will become acquainted with the names of the missionaries, their location and the work in which they are engaged.

20. A Visitation of All the Churches of Presbytery.

The Committee might arrange annually for a visit to each church in the presbytery by the Committee or one or more of the members in order to have a frank discussion of the local missionary situation with the officers and the leaders of the church or with the congregation as a whole. A definite missionary program should be outlined and appraisal made and goals projected. Many of the topics suggested in section 5 of this chapter might be used in a conference in a local church as well as with a group of churches. The visitation might emphasize or study with the local church the leaflet "Revitalizing Missions in the Individual Church" which may be secured from the Foreign Board offices.

21. Relation to Women's Presbyterial Society.

The closest co-operation possible should be carried on between the Foreign Missions Committee and the Women's Presbyterial Society. The president of the presbyterial society should

be an active member of the Foreign Missions Committee. In order to co-ordinate the promotional approach to the local churches, it is suggested that a number of joint meetings of the officers of the presbyterial society and the members of the presbytery committee should be held, to discuss, clear and plan for co-operation in all foreign missions promotional projects for the area; such as, itineration of missionaries, special days for foreign missions, "Foreign Affairs Forums," foreign missions conferences, etc.

22. United Promotion.

The Foreign Missions Committee should do everything possible to co-operate in the united promotion program of the presbytery. The chairman of the Foreign Missions Committee will of course be a member of presbytery's Committee on United Promotion. The Foreign Missions chairman will not only emphasize the interest of Foreign Missions in united promotion but also will do his best to implement, through the Foreign Missions Committee, programs agreed upon for united promotion.

23. Remitting Benevolences.

The Foreign Missions Committee will want to co-operate with the Committee on United Promotion in urging prompt and regular (if possible, monthly; or at least quarterly) remittances of benevolences according to the plan followed by presbytery. Each Foreign Missions Committee should have *The Benevolence Treasurers' Manual* which may be secured from the General Council at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Chapter IV

SUGGESTED METHODS FOR SYNOD'S FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE

What has been already said about the work of Presbytery's Committee is taken for granted before this section is discussed. It is well to repeat, however, the urgent plea that no one shall think that everything suggested is pertinent to all situations or that the suggestions are exhaustive of possibilities. Deep concern and initiative will always be finding more and different things to do in order to vitalize the life of the synod for world missions.

Since the section on presbytery's work is so detailed, the notes here may be quite brief, though the synod's work is often heavier than that of any one presbytery.

1. A Careful Study of the Actual Situation in Each Presbytery.

Let synod's Foreign Missions Committee study why some desirable thing is not being done in a given presbytery. Why not more mission study? Why so many blanks in the Assembly Minutes? Why should one presbytery show a large percentage of churches giving, while another runs low? Is the presbytery's Committee taking its work seriously? What are the difficulties met in each presbytery and how can they be remedied? Where can the hands of the presbytery's Committee be strengthened?

2. Conferences.

At the meeting of synod, at least, and possibly once a year elsewhere, if finances and time will permit, the presbyteries' chairmen and any committeemen available ought to have a thorough and painstaking conference about the work. Some

synods are now calling together the chairmen of all committees under the guidance of the Committee on United Promotion sometime during the summer to study the whole situation and to determine unified and effective policies and programs. At the meeting of synod such a conference can often be arranged with the members of both Synod's Committee and the presbyteries' Committees. It needs to have a real agenda and to get down to business about real work.

3. The Report to Synod.

This ought to have much attention. One reason why such reports are discounted is that so often they are futile and meaningless. When, however, a report occurs showing that work has been done and is planned to be done, synods are not indifferent. When, also the report is surrounded by items of vital interest like an address by a missionary speaker or a program wisely laid out in which capable men and women and young people take part, or when a motion picture is shown, it is generally one of the main things reported by returning elders and pastors.

It is of great importance that the Committee shall claim and receive adequate time and the right place on the agenda. This is not the only interest before the synod, but it is one of the largest and it deserves, as it generally receives, a good opportunity. If there is a visiting speaker, there ought to be time somewhere for him to be questioned by the synod regarding anything of special concern. Often it is helpful to set a time and place where he can be individually seen by those who would be helped by a direct word. There ought to be a chance also for some word from or about each presbytery, indicating its standing as a missionary agency. Above all, let there be a flight from the perfunctory report. Fresh news from the field is always available at the nearest Board office or can be secured from the missionaries in which the synod is directly interested. A direct request for definite prayer can be asked from each of these field workers and the routine business of synod can be stopped for a few

minutes while such prayer is offered. Any missionary will gladly describe his work in terms of some definite prayer needs and these can be laid on the hearts of the commissioners.

When the synodical society meets at the same time and place as the synod it is often possible to arrange for a joint meeting to hear a special missionary address at the time of the Committee's report.

The duty of the Committee is to see that the time at its disposal is made notable, without a dragging minute. The world mission of the Church is urgent and challenging!

4. Popular Meetings at Synod.

The Foreign Missions Committee should endeavor to have Synod's Council allocate one of the popular evening meetings to the presentation of Foreign Missions. This meeting should be made as inspirational as possible through the use of an able missionary speaker, a panel discussion, a motion picture, a dramatization, or a "Presbyterian Foreign Affairs Forum."

5. Foreign Missions Seminars.

Very often at synod meetings the afternoons are free for whatever use the commissioners desire. It has been found profitable to conduct a two hour seminar on Foreign Missions during one afternoon period. This occasion should be carefully prepared. The seminar leader might be the chairman of the Foreign Missions Committee, a missionary, or Board representative. Vital issues concerning the work of foreign missions abroad and its promotion at home should be presented, studied, and discussed in an informal manner.

6. Itinerating a Missionary or Team.

This always involves the presbyteries' Foreign Missions Committees, yet it would be wise for the synod's Foreign Missions Committee to discuss these itinerations at the meeting of synod to encourage such a plan in every presbytery and where possible to co-ordinate the programs of presbyteries, referring any evident problems to the Area Secretary of the Board.

7. Stress Some Vital Feature Each Year.

The Committee ought to see to it that something stimulating and convincing happens in every presbytery during each year. It cannot be carried out by the "overhead" forces of the Board alone, and the same things cannot be done each year. But something can be planned for every presbytery to bring anew to the mind of churches that the world work is calling for more and more of their concern and support. It may be the special sermon which can be emphasized everywhere, or the School of Missions, or the special Sundays that come each year, or the Book Club for Men, or the "Presbyterian Foreign Affairs Forum," or some striking missionary event or date—something that keeps the interest vital and constant.

8. Synod and Presbytery Relationship.

A careful reading of Chapter III of this Manual, on Methods for Presbytery's Foreign Missions Committee, will suggest to the members of Synod's Foreign Missions Committee projects that can be advanced in the synod as a whole as well as in individual presbyteries. When such projects are attempted, it would be well for all of the chairmen of the Foreign Missions Committees of the presbyteries to plan and work together with Synod's Committee if they are not already on the Committe of synod. In some cases it will be most helpful to have an occasional "planning conference" called by the synod's Foreign Missions Committee, attended by its own members and the members of the presbyteries' Foreign Missions Committees.

In two particular instances the chairman of Synod's Committee on Foreign Missions may effectively assist in foreign missions promotion in a presbytery: (1) When the presbytery chairmanship is vacant, he may suggest to the Council of presbytery a person he has reason to believe especially fitted for this office; (2) At the proper time he may help the Foreign Missions Committee of presbytery secure funds from presbytery as an appropriation for missionary promotion within the presbytery.

Chapter V

RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR THE FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE

(1) The progress and problems of the work in each Presbyterian Mission field as presented in the *Annual Report* of the Foreign Board.

(2) The location and work of the missionaries supported by or in any way related to the churches in your synod or Presbytery.

(3) The timely issues in Presbyterian Missions as given monthly in the Board's *Foreign Affairs Bulletin.*

(4) The factual material and intimate stories concerning achievements and needs of Presbyterian missionaries as told regularly through publications of the Editorial and Publicity Division of the Foreign Board.

(5) The trends in the world mission of the Church as revealed in the *Annual Report* of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America.

(6) The Findings of the Madras Conference of the International Missionary Conference: *The World Mission of the Church,* and the related studies, *The Church Builds for Tomorrow.*

(7) The record of the missionary enterprise as contained in the books and periodicals in the Library of the Foreign Board.

(8) The plans, projects and techniques of education and promotion in Foreign Missions as prepared by the various offices and divisions of the Home Base Department of the Foreign Board.

(9) The financial statement as submitted periodically by the Treasury Department of the Foreign Board.

(10) The giving to foreign missions of the churches within the bounds of your synod or presbytery.

(11) The specific need for new missionaries as announced by the Department of Missionary Personnel of the Foreign Board.

(12) Details as to the organization and work of the Foreign Board as told in the leaflet "The Board of Foreign Missions . . . What It Is and Does".

(All of the material referred to above may be secured through the offices of The Board of Foreign Missions, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City; 77 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois; 228 McAllister Street, San Francisco, California)

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"That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things on earth and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."